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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR March 1988 — June 1988

March Unemployment Rate 5.3% in the District

Largest February to March decline in 18 years

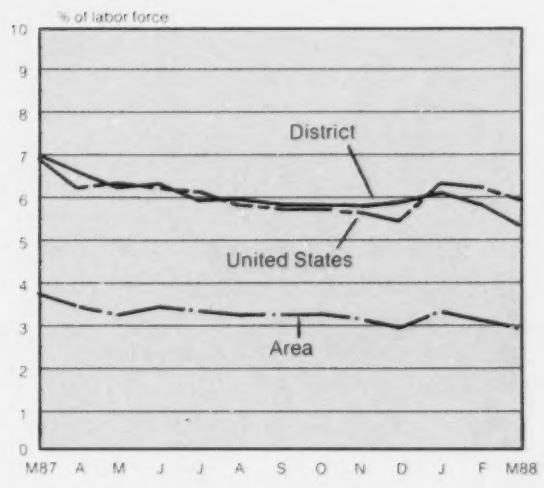
Labor Force

The District

Between February and March, the District's unemployment rate dropped a half of a percentage point from 5.8 percent to 5.3 percent. **This was the largest February-to-March decline in eighteen years, since March of 1970.** During March, an additional 5,800 District residents were added to local employer payrolls. This employment increase was not only large enough to absorb a 4,400 person increase in the labor force, but also sufficiently strong to reduce the unemployment rolls by 1,400 jobless workers. The 5.3 percent monthly rate is the lowest rate for March since 1972, when the rate was 4.9 percent.

The District's March rate was also lower than the unadjusted rate (5.9 percent) for all civilian workers across the United States.

Unemployment Rates
March 1987 - March 1988



Compared to March 1987, the pool of District residents without jobs has shrunk by nearly 24 percent, from 23,000 unemployed last year to 17,600 this year. More importantly, 8,600 more District residents are now employed. As a result, the unemployment

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Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director

The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR MARCH 1988 JUNE 1988

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The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gv endolyn Thompson; and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling: (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

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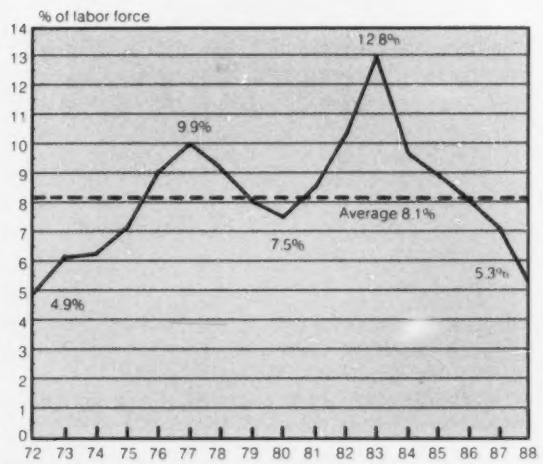
rate registered a steep over-the-year decline of 1.7 percentage points. Measured from the March record high set in 1983, the District's unemployment rate over the past five years has fallen 7.5 percentage points and the number of jobless workers has declined by 22,600. These labor market improvements are a testament to the strong economic recovery and job creation in the District and the Area.

District Unemployment Rates in the Month of March 1972 - 1988



Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	Mar.[a] 1988	Feb.[b] 1988	Mar.[b] 1987
District of Columbia	5.3	5.8	7.0
Calvert County	4.7	5.7	4.8
Frederick County	4.0	5.0	4.6
Prince Georges Co.	3.5	3.6	3.5
Charles County	3.4	3.5	3.2
Montgomery County	2.5	2.6	2.4
Stafford County	2.3	2.6	2.8
Prince William County	2.0	2.1	2.2
Alexandria City	2.0	2.1	2.9
Manassas City	1.9	2.1	1.8
Falls Church City	1.8	1.8	1.6
Arlington County	1.7	1.7	2.2
Loudoun County	1.6	1.7	1.6
Fairfax County	1.5	1.7	2.0
Fairfax City	1.4	1.5	2.0
Manassas Park City	1.3	1.8	1.6

a. Preliminary.
b. Revised.

Source: The Department of Employment Services, The Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

The Area & Suburbs

Between February and March, the unemployment rate in both the suburbs and the Area declined marginally, tightening the labor supply even more. The suburban rate fell to 2.4 percent and the Area rate to 2.9 percent. During March, 23,300 additional suburbanites found jobs and when combined with the District's 5,800 new workers, it brought the monthly increase in new Area job holders to 29,100.

Over the year (March 1987 to March 1988), the Area added nearly 100,000 new workers, 91 percent of whom were suburban residents. The number of new Area job holders (94,400) exceeded the growth in the labor supply (80,100). As a consequence, Area unemployment declined (14,300) and the rate contracted nearly a full percentage point (0.8), producing a further tightening of available new workers. About 37 percent of the decline in Area unemployment was attributable to the District. In March of 1987, suburbanites comprised about 70 percent of all unemployed Area residents and this March nearly 72 percent. So relatively more of the Area unemployed live in the suburbs, but the total pool of unemployed in the whole Washington Area has declined by 19 percent.

Over the past year, the District has been able to reduce its relative share of Area unemployment by about 1.7 percentage

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Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the
Washington, D.C. MSA
March 1988[a]

	Mar.[b] 1988	Feb.[c] 1988	Mar.[d] 1987	Feb.[d] 1987	Net Change From Feb. 1988	Net Change From Mar. 1987
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	330,300	325,900	327,000	324,200	4,400	3,300
Total Employed	312,700	306,900	304,100	300,300	5,800	8,600
Total Unemployed	17,600	19,000	23,000	23,900	-1,400	-5,400
Unemployment Rate[e]	5.3	5.8	7.0	7.4	-0.5	-1.7
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,826,700	1,805,800	1,749,900	1,725,500	20,900	76,800
Total Employed	1,782,100	1,758,800	1,696,300	1,668,700	23,300	85,800
Total Unemployed	44,600	47,000	53,500	56,700	-2,400	-8,900
Unemployment Rate[e]	2.4	2.6	3.1	3.3	-0.2	-0.7
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,157,000	2,131,700	2,076,900	2,049,700	25,300	80,100
Total Employed	2,094,800	2,065,700	2,000,400	1,969,000	29,100	94,400
Total Unemployed	62,200	66,000	76,500	80,600	-3,800	-14,300
Unemployment Rate[e]	2.9	3.1	3.7	3.9	-0.2	-0.8

a Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding.
b. Preliminary.
c. Revised
d. Data reflects Benchmark Revisions.
e. Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, and the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
March 1988 & March 1987
(Percent)

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment
	MARCH 1988		
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	15.3	14.9	28.3
Suburbs	84.7	85.1	71.7
	MARCH 1987		
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	15.8	15.2	30.1
Suburbs	84.2	84.8	69.9

Continued from page 3

points. So despite the fact that the Area and the suburbs show marked signs of labor shortages, the District still bares a disproportionate share of the Area's unemployed with only 15 percent of the Area's labor force, but 28 percent of the unemployed.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits totalled 8,686 in March 1988 -- down 1,445 claimants from February. In March, 58 percent of all UI recipients were males. Occupationally, clerical and sales workers comprised 24 percent of the total March claimants. This was followed by professional, technical and managerial workers at 22 percent and service workers at 21 percent. The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 10.0 weeks for all claimants -- up from 9.3 weeks in February.

Over the month, the duration for males rose from 9.0 weeks to 9.9 weeks, while that for females rose from 10.0 to 10.1 weeks. In March 1987, the average duration for males was 9.8 weeks and 10.6 weeks for females.

Job Growth

The District

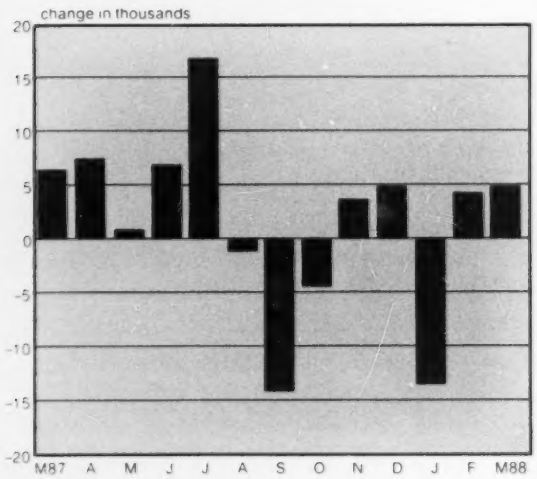
The number of jobs in the District increased by 4,800 between February and March for a gain of 0.7 percent. The private sector was responsible for 88 percent of the total growth with a primarily seasonal gain of 4,200 jobs. The major contributor, Services (2,600 jobs), accounted for 62 percent of the private job growth with the leading growth components being Hotels (700 jobs), Business Services (700 jobs) and All Other Services (600 jobs).

In the public sector, State and Local Government rose seasonally by 600 jobs while Federal Government recorded a slight 100 job increase.

Over the year, (March 1987 to March 1988), the number of District jobs rose 2.9 percent for a gain of 18,400 jobs. The private sector grew at a rate of 4.6 percent for an increase of 17,400 jobs. The leading growth contributor, Services, accounted for three of every four new jobs in the private sector with growth of 13,100 jobs. The major components of Services growth were Business Services (3,900 jobs), All Other Services (3,200 jobs), Hotels (2,100 jobs) and Legal Services (2,000 jobs). Significant private sector growth also occurred in Trade (1,700 jobs) and Construction (1,300 jobs).

The public sector grew by 1,000 jobs as growth in State and Local Government (3,900 jobs) was partially offset by a reduction in Federal Government (2,900 jobs).

Monthly Job Growth
The District
March 1987 - March 1988



The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs increased by 12,900 for growth of 0.9 percent between February and March. The private sector accounted for 81 percent of the growth with seasonally induced gains in Construction (3,900 jobs), Services (3,800 jobs) and Trade (1,400 jobs). The Maryland suburbs

Continued on page 6

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Mar. 1988[b]	Feb. 1988[c]	Mar. 1987[c]	Mar. 1988[b]	Feb. 1988[c]	Mar. 1987[c]
Total	**661.7**	**656.9**	**643.3**	**2,115.1**	**2,097.4**	**2,036.6**
Total Private Sector	397.3	393.1	379.9	1,555.7	1,541.0	1,482.3
Total Government	264.4	263.8	263.4	559.4	556.4	554.3
PRIVATE SECTOR						
Manufacturing	**16.5**	**16.4**	**15.9**	**87.6**	**87.3**	**85.9**
Total Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	41.9	41.8	41.3
Stone, Clay, Glass and Concrete Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.3	3.1	3.1
Electrical & Electronic Machinery, Equip. & Sup.	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.6	21.8	22.5
All Other Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.0	16.8	15.6
Total Non-Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	45.6	45.5	44.6
Food & Kindred Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.7	5.6	5.4
Printing & Publishing	12.7	12.6	11.9	32.9	32.9	31.8
All Other Non-Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.1	7.0	7.4
All Other Manufacturing	3.9	3.9	4.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.1**	**1.1**	**1.1**
Construction	**16.3**	**15.7**	**15.0**	**131.5**	**127.0**	**123.7**
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	**24.4**	**24.2**	**24.3**	**102.6**	**101.6**	**98.8**
Railroad	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.9	4.9	4.9
Transportation (except Railroad)	N/A	N/A	N/A	46.4	45.6	42.4
All Transportation	9.4	9.3	8.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Communication and Public Utilities	15.0	15.0	15.4	51.4	51.1	51.5

a. Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. b. Preliminary. c. Revised.

Data includes all full- and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

Continued from page 5

were responsible for 56 percent of the Construction increase while the Virginia suburbs accounted for 76 and 93 percent, respectively, of the growth in Services and Trade.

In the public sector an increase of 2,400 jobs is attributable to primarily seasonal growth in State and Local Government with the two suburban areas sharing equally in this growth.

Over the year (March 1987 to March 1988), suburban jobs grew at a rate of 4.3 percent for a gain of 60,100 jobs.The Virginia suburbs grew at a rate of 6.2 percent accounting for 71 percent ot suburban growth, while the Maryland suburbs increased by 2.5 percent. The private sector was responsible for 93 percent of total new jobs with the leading growth contributors, Services (26,500 jobs) and Trade (13,200 jobs), accounting for two-thirds of suburban growth. Two-thirds of Services growth and 73 percent of the

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Mar. 1988[b]	Feb. 1988[c]	Mar. 1987[c]	Mar. 1988[b]	Feb. 1988[c]	Mar. 1987[c]
Trade	**63.0**	**62.3**	**61.3**	**421.7**	**419.6**	**406.8**
Wholesale	8.7	8.7	8.7	76.3	76.4	73.8
Retail	54.2	53.6	52.6	345.4	343.3	332.9
General Merchandise	4.2	4.2	4.0	35.9	37.1	35.2
Food	N/A	N/A	N/A	44.8	44.7	43.7
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	38.8	38.6	38.0
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.8	27.5	26.1
Eating & Drinking Places	26.5	25.9	25.9	113.6	111.2	109.1
All Other Retail	23.6	23.5	22.8	84.5	84.2	80.7
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	**37.6**	**37.5**	**37.0**	**127.5**	**127.1**	**122.1**
Banking	7.2	7.3	7.2	22.7	22.7	21.8
All Other	30.4	30.2	29.8	104.8	104.4	100.3
Services	**239.4**	**236.8**	**226.3**	**683.7**	**677.3**	**644.1**
Hotels & Lodging Places	16.4	15.7	14.3	34.6	33.9	32.4
Personal Services	4.1	4.1	4.2	25.1	24.6	23.9
Business Services	52.2	51.5	48.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Processing	3.7	3.6	3.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	33.8	33.6	32.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legal Services	25.7	25.6	23.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Membership Organizations	31.4	31.1	30.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
All Other Services	75.8	75.2	72.6	624.1	618.7	587.8
GOVERNMENT	**264.4**	**263.8**	**263.4**	**559.4**	**556.4**	**554.3**
Federal Government	207.6	207.5	210.5	347.2	347.2	351.3
State & Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	212.2	209.2	203.0
State & Local (ex. Pub. Transportation)	52.0	51.4	48.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Transportation	4.8	4.8	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Trade growth occurred in the Virginia suburbs. The Virginia suburbs also accounted for 70 percent of the jobs created in Construction (6,500 jobs), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (4,800 jobs) and Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (3,700 jobs).

In the public sector, growth in State and Local Government (5,300 jobs) was partially offset by a decline in Federal Government (1,200 jobs) resulting in a 1.4 percent rate of growth. State and Local Government growth was concentrated entirely in the Virginia suburbs which were also responsible for two-thirds of the Federal job loss.

The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area gained 17,700 jobs between February and March for a 0.8 percent rate of growth. The private

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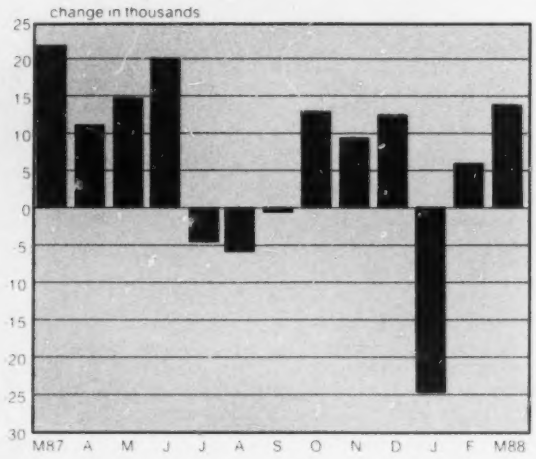
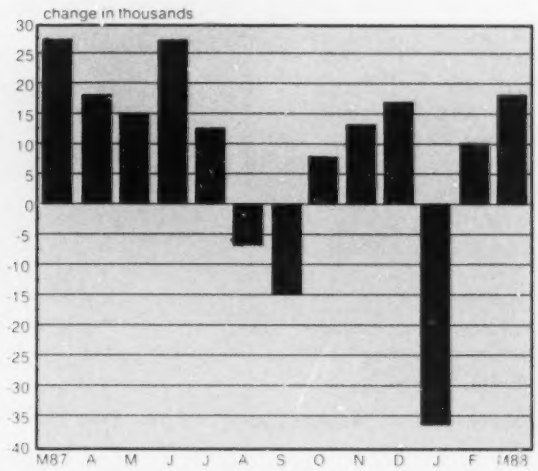
Monthly Job Growth
The Suburbs
March 1987 - March 1988



Monthly Job Growth
The Area
March 1987 - March 1988



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sector accounted for 83 percent of this growth with primarily seasonal gains in Services (6,400 jobs), Construction (4,500 jobs) and Trade (2,100 jobs).

The public sector growth of 3,000 jobs was entirely due to seasonal gains in State and Local Government.

Over the year (March 1987 to March 1988), the Area grew at a rate of 3.9 percent for a gain of 78,500 new jobs. The private sector accounted for 94 percent of total growth with an increase of 73,400 jobs and a 5.0 percent rate of growth. The leading job contributors, Services (39,600 jobs) and Trade (14,900 jobs), accounted for 69 percent of all new Area jobs. Sizable private sector growth also occurred in Construction (7,800 jobs), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (5,400 jobs) and Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (3,800 jobs).

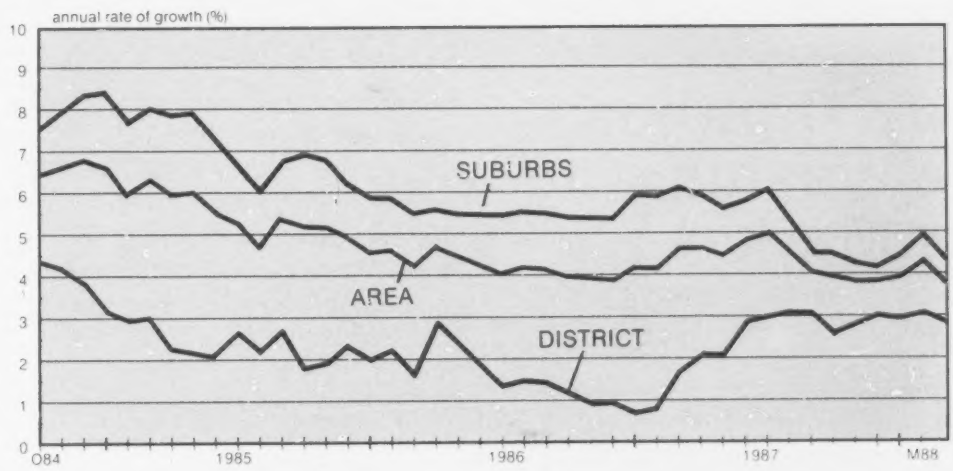
The public sector grew at a rate of 0.9 percent for a gain of 5,100 jobs as growth in State and Local Government (9,200 jobs) was partially offset by a reduction in Federal Government (4,100 jobs). A sizable portion of the gain in State and Local Government and a majority of the Federal job loss is attributable to the transfer of Saint Elizabeth's Hospital to the District Government.

Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past 42 months (October 1984 to March 1988), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 4.8 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has been steadily declining after peaking at 6.8 percent in December 1984. Between March 1987 and March 1988, the Area's job growth slowed to 3.9 percent.

The suburban portion of the area is still the generator of most new jobs, having grown over the past year at a rate of 4.3 percent, but below its 41-month-longterm average of 6.1 percent. Over the past year, the District proper has added new jobs at a rate of 2.9

Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth
October 1984 - March 1988



Profile of Job Growth Rates
October 1984 to March 1988

The Area	
Average 41 months	4.8%
High, December 1984	6.8%
Low, December 1987	3.9%
Current month	3.9%
The Suburbs	
Average 41 months	6.1%
High, January 1985	8.4%
Low, December 1987	4.2%
Current month	4.3%
The District	
Average 41 months	2.4%
High, October 1984	4.4%
Low, January 1987	0.7%
Current month	2.9%

percent, but unlike the suburbs, above its 41-month average of 2.4 percent.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from 111,200 new jobs produced between March 1984 and March 1985 to 78,500 between March 1987 and this past March. Over the past year, 60,100 new jobs were added to the Suburban economy and 18,400 in the District. ***The Washington Area is now creating new jobs at a faster pace than the U.S. economy (3.9 percent versus 3.2 percent for the Nation).***

Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Areas

In February 1988, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 241 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. Historically, the Washington Area's jobless rate generally decreases between January and February. The February rate at 3.1 percent was down from 3.3 percent recorded in January. This month's decline of 0.2 percentage point is seasonal. This was the eleventh lowest rate of all 241 areas reporting. A year ago, the rate was 3.9 percent.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the

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Labor Force Profile:

Supply Tightness in the Washington Labor Market

Much has been written about the shortage of workers in the Washington Area, but is there a statistical measure of this tightness? Recently, the Labor Market Information Staff conducted a review of this question. This article contains the results of that review.

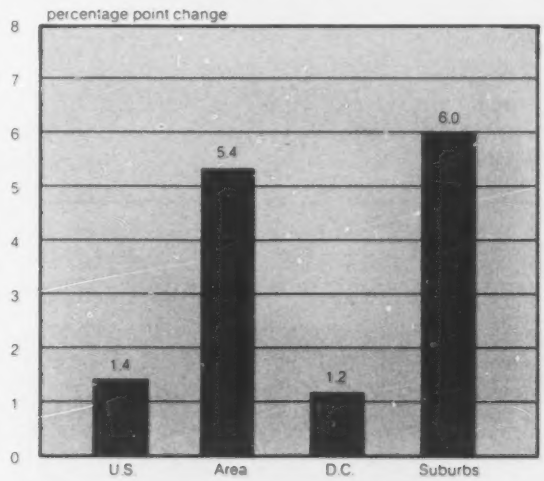
Economists often use employment-to-population ratios as a measure of labor market tightness. The employment-to-population ratio is simply the number of persons in an area who are working divided by the number of residents of that same area who are 16 years of age or older (the traditional working age population). The employment ratio also produces as a residual, a measurement of the population *not working*. This represents the potential labor supply which might be tapped to support future job growth. The data includes only civilians who are not confined in an institution, such as a hospital or correctional facility. The population/employment statistics used in the study were taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual publication, *Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment* for the years 1980 through 1986. Data are annual averages from the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Employment/Population Ratios in the Washington Area

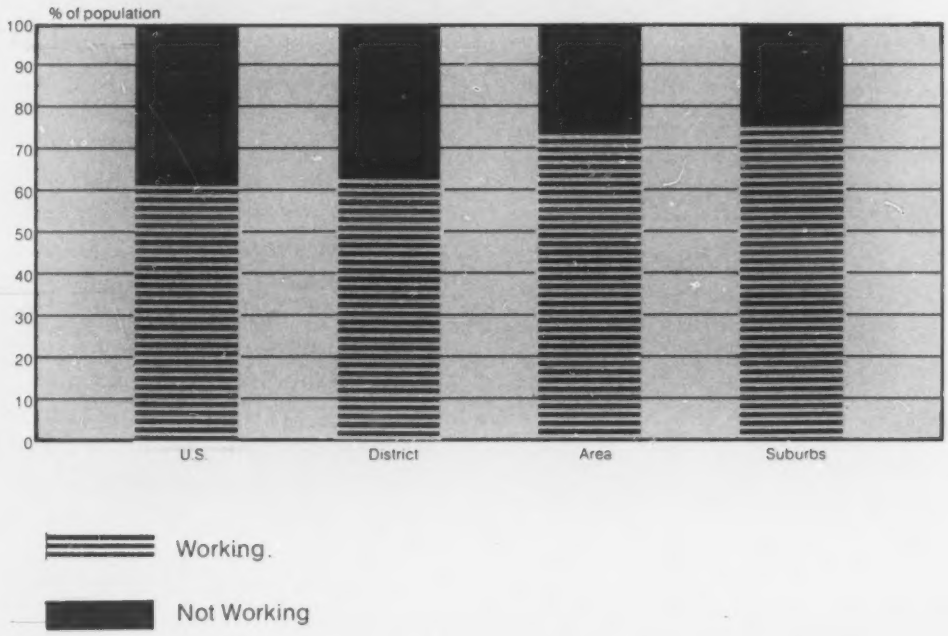
The proportion of Washington Area residents employed in 1986 was 72.8 percent. This was 12.2 percentage points greater than the same ratio for all Americans. **In the suburban portion of the Washington Area, three of every four persons had a job**. In the District proper, the employment-to-population ratio was lower (62.2 percent) than in the suburbs (75.0 percent), but still higher than the U.S. ratio (60.7 percent).

Between 1980 and 1982, employment-to-population ratios in the Washington Area and the United States all declined, probably reflecting the impact of two recessions experienced in the early 80's. Since the end of the last recession, however, the local ratios have increased significantly – by 6.4 percentage points in the Area, 6.0 percentage points in the suburbs and 5.5 percen-

Increase in Employment/Population Ratio (Decrease in Potential Labor Supply) 1980 - 1986



Percent of Population Working and Not Working
1986



tage points in the City. This rapid local growth between 1982 and 1986 contrasts with a slower 2.9 percent increase across the country.

Thus measured by the employment-to-population ratio, the Washington Area labor market now has a relatively smaller pool of potential new workers than the national economy and, with more than 7 of every 10 Area residents working, a very tight labor supply. Of the 3 Area residents not working, about 1.7 are either teenagers (16-19) or persons 55 and older, two groups that tend to have low labor force participation rates, because many are either attending school or retired.[1]

1 In the Wahington Area in 1986, there were an estimated 730,000 people not at work. Of this number about 108,000 (14.8%) were teenagers (16-19) and 338,000 (46.3%) were 55 years or older.

Labor Supply in the Washington Area Versus Other Metropolitan Areas

How does the employment-to-population relationship in the Washington Area compare to other metropolitan areas? BLS's annual ***Profiles*** had some statistics which permit comparisons. Nine other metropolitan areas were selected for contrast with the Washington Area for selected years -- 1980, 1982 (to show recessionary impacts) and 1986.

In all three years, the Washington Area had the highest proportion of its population with a job. The Detroit Area consistently had the

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Employment to Population Ratios
the United States, the Washington Area, the District and the Suburbs
1980 - 1986
(annual averages-percents)

	U.S.	Area	District	Suburbs*
1980	59.3	67.4	61.0	69.1
1981	59.0	66.4	56.8	69.0
1982	57.8	66.4	56.7	69.1
1983	57.9	67.7	58.5	70.1
1984	59.5	70.3	60.5	72.7
1985	60.1	71.9	61.3	74.4
1986	60.7	72.8**	62.2	75.1

* Suburban data derived by LMIR.

** In 1986, BLS introduced the new MSA definition in *Profile.*

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 1980 through 1986.

Employment to Population Ratios
Selected Metropolitan Areas and Years
1980, 1982 & 1986
(annual averages-percents)

Areas	1980	1982	1986
Washington, DC	67.4	66.4	72.8
Dallas/Ft. Worth**	68.1	68.9	70.7
Atlanta	64.4	63.3	68.7
Boston*	63.0	61.8	65.8
San Francisco/Oak.*	61.5	62.8	65.8
Milwaukee*	64.5	61.9	61.6
Baltimore	62.2	58.6	60.8
St. Louis*	58.6	58.4	60.6
Philadelphia*	56.8	56.3	59.3
Detroit*	54.7	53.1	57.9

* Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA)

** Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 1980, 1982 & 1986.

In 1986, BLS introduced the new Census definitions in *Profile.*

smallest ratio, with its proportion of population with jobs in 1986 being nearly 15 percentage points behind the Washington Area. Between 1980 and 1982, employment/population ratios as a result of the recessions declined in all but two metropolitan areas -- Dallas/Ft. Worth and San Francisco/Oakland. Over the full six-year period (1980 - 1986), the ratio of the population with a job increased everywhere, except in Milwaukee and Baltimore. Growth in the ratio was most marked, however, locally -- increasing over the six years by 5.4 percentage points. Increases in the Atlanta and San Francisco/Oakland metropolitan areas were the next largest (both increased 4.3 percentage points), while the Milwaukee Area showed the largest decline (2.9 percentage points).

Thus measured by employment-to-population ratios, the Washington Area had the tightest labor supply of all studied metropolitan areas.

The District of Columbia Versus Other Selected Central Cities

As noted earlier, the District's employment/population ratio is slightly higher than the ratio for all of the United States. But how does it compare with other central cities?

In 1986, the employment-to-population ratio in the District (62.2 percent) was the highest of the ten selected cities, except for two Texas cities -- Dallas (68.8 percent) and Houston (63.3 percent). Like the Detroit Area as a whole, Detroit City had the lowest proportion of its population employed in 1986 (41.2 percent) -- some 21 percentage points below the District.

Employment to Population Ratios
Selected Central Cities and Years
1980, 1982 & 1986
(annual averages percents)

Central Cities	1980	1982	1986
Dallas	68.8	68.7	68.8
Houston	66.3	66.2	63.3
District	61.0	56.7	62.2
Milwaukee	60.2	55.5	58.6
St. Louis	50.6	48.9	53.1
Baltimore	54.5	45.8	49.7
Philadelphia	47.9	46.8	47.8
Cleveland	48.9	47.3	45.0
Detroit	42.9	41.3	41.2

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 1980, 1982 & 1986.

Between 1980 and the recession year of 1982, all central cities experienced a decline in the ratio with the largest decline occurring in Baltimore (8.7 percentage points vs. 4.3 in the District). **Over the six-year-study period, only two cities -- St. Louis and the District -- registered increases in the proportion of city residents with jobs (a 2.5 percentage point increase in St. Louis and a 1.2 percentage point increase in D.C.).** One other central city, Dallas, recorded no change.

Observations

While a high employment-to-population ratio is a desirable social indicator and a measure of the strength of a local economy, it also measures the size of the pool of potential new workers available to fuel future job growth. The higher the employ-ment-to-population ratio, the smaller the potential labor supply. The employment-to-population ratio in the Washington Area, and more significantly in the Washington suburbs, is now very high, perhaps the highest in the Nation. So the potential supply of new Area workers is very small and the labor market extremely tight. This shortage of workers could act as a constraint on future local job growth. In addition, a high employment-to-population relationship probably means there will be strong upward pressures on local wages, as more and more employers begin raising wages to compete for employees from among the smaller pool of both experienced and entry level workers.

In the Washington Area, only the District appears to have an adequate supply of available workers for future expansion. In order to sustain Area job growth, local employers and governments will need to focus their attention on smoothing the functioning of the labor market through improved transportation, expanded recruitment, reevaluated skill requirements, increased public and private training, expanded daycare and more affordable housing for lower paid workers.

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Continued from page 9

Washington Area's rate at 3.1 percent tied with the Boston Area also at 3.1 percent for the lowest rate among all major metropolitan areas. A year ago, the Boston rate was also 3.1 percent. The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, recorded a rate of 5.6 percent -- unchanged from January. A year ago, the Baltimore rate was 5.3 percent. The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, had a February jobless rate of 3.4 percent -- down from the 3.6 percent posted in January. A year ago, it was 4.1 percent.

States

When the District of Columbia (with a February preliminary unemployment rate of 5.8 percent) was ranked with the 50 states, the District had the twenty-first lowest jobless rate in the country. This was two notches below the January standing. Maryland's rate declined from 5.2 percent in January to 5.1 percent in February. Virginia's rate also declined, dropping from 4.2 percent to 4.1 percent. Maryland and Virginia ranked fifteenth and seventeenth, respectively, in the standing of the 51 jurisdictions.

Of those states reporting over-the-year declines in unemployment rates for February, 21 states and the District of Columbia reported decreases of 1 percentage point or more. The largest were in Wyoming (4.0 points), Mississippi (2.7 points), and Alaska and Louisiana (both 2.2 points).

All of the states along the eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida reported unemployment rates of 6.0 percent or less. New Hampshire, at 3.1 percent, had the lowest unemployment rate in the nation for February, followed by Hawaii (3.3 percent), Connecticut (3.6 percent), and Massachusetts (3.8 percent). Eighteen other states and the District of Columbia reported rates below 6 percent. Three states had rates in double digits -- West Virginia (13.2 percent), Louisiana (12.1 percent), and Alaska (11.1 percent).

Cities

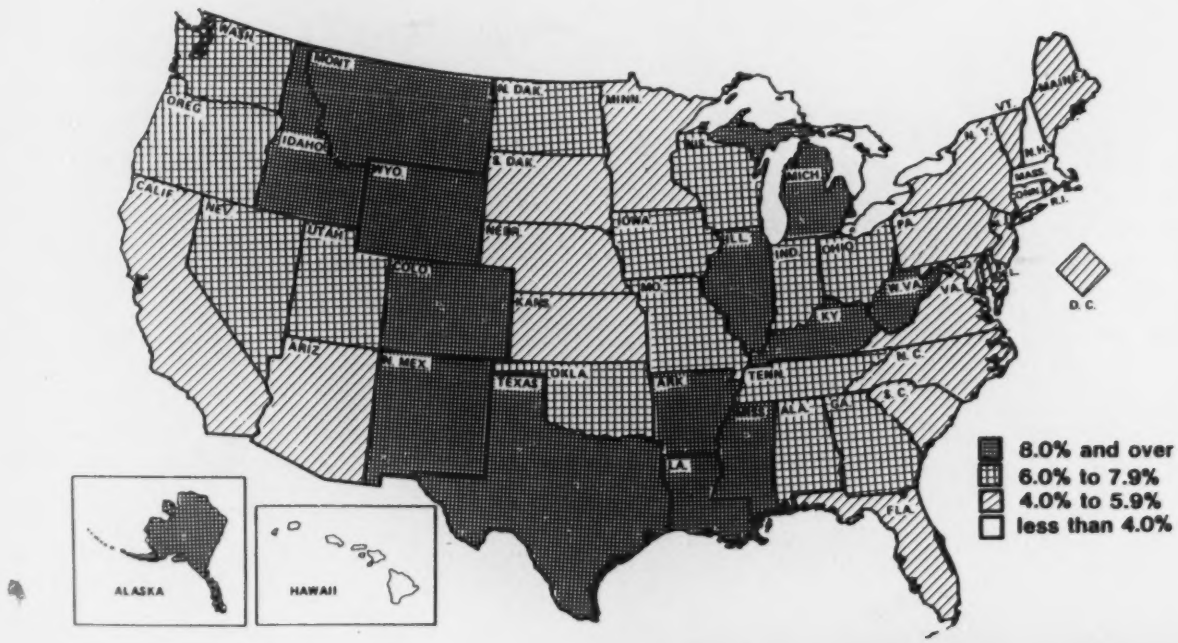
In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a February preliminary rate of 5.8 percent) had the fifth lowest jobless rate. This was down one notch from January. In February, the average unemployment rate of all 26 cities was 7.3 percent. Of the 26 cities, twenty-

Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities*

City	February 1988*	February 1987
1. Boston, MA	3.4	4.0
2. New York, NY	4.2	6.0
3. San Francisco, CA	4.3	4.9
4. Columbus, OH	5.3	6.6
5. District of Columbia	**5.8**	**7.4**
6. Philadelphia, PA	5.8	6.1
7. Los Angeles, CA	6.3	7.5
8. Pittsburgh, PA	6.4	7.2
9. Salt Lake City, UT	6.4	7.1
10. Cincinnati, OH	6.5	8.4
11. Miami, FL	6.5	7.0
12. Milwaukee, WI	7.0	8.2
13. Dallas, TX	7.6	7.1
14. Atlanta, GA	7.6	8.1
15. St. Louis, MO	7.8	10.2
16. Baltimore, MD	8.2	7.8
17. Buffalo, NY	8.2	9.4
18. Newark, NJ	8.2	10.1
19. Chicago, IL	8.5	8.7
20. Houston, TX	8.9	10.7
21. Birmingham, AL	9.0	11.0
22. Cleveland, OH	9.1	11.7
23. Dayton, OH	9.4	10.4
24. New Orleans, LA	9.9	11.3
25. Detroit, MI	12.6	11.7
26. Gary, IN	12.8	19.8

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

Unemployment Rates by State, February 1988



three reported lower jobless rates, and three reported higher rates. There were six cities including the District of Columbia with rates under 6 percent. The Baltimore rate at 8.2 percent was up seasonally, and up by 0.4 percentage point over the year. Double digit jobless rates were reported in only two cities. Gary, Indiana at 12.8 percent again posted the highest rate of the 26 cities. Detroit, Michigan which had the highest rate in January reported a jobless rate of 12.6 percent in February. Boston, New York, and San Francisco reported the lowest rates at 3.4, 4.2 and 4.3 percents, respectively. The largest over-the-year declines were reported in Gary, a large 7.0 points, Cleveland 2.6 points, and St. Louis 2.4 points. Detroit and Dallas had the largest over-the-year increases in joblessness 0.9 point and 0.5 point, respectively.

Departments

Unemployment Insurance Activities March 1988

The District of Columbia processed 3,150 claims for unemployment compensation benefits from former workers in the city, and others who use our services in the network of the nationally operated unemployment compensation system to file against other states in the nation. The March level of initial claims was virtually level (–1.1 percent) with the workload from the previous month. Compared to March 1987, the current month's claims dropped 5 percent. The number of weeks of unemployment claimed

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during the month amounted to 41,320, while the number actually compensated totaled 38,750. These levels were 6 and 7 percent, respectively, above last month, but 10 and 11 percent below the same month last year.

As expected, the total outlay for benefits rose from last month somewhat commensurate with the weeks compensated for benefits. Also, the average weekly payout rose nearly one dollar. This increase (from $180.52 to $181.45) is a natural outgrowth of the change in the maximum weekly benefit amount from $250 to $268 effective January 1988 and the accompanying higher overall benefit scale. All claimants who qualified on the higher scale since January and those who recently exhausted from the lower scale effective prior to January combined to make for the increase in the average weekly amount. The total outlay in March was $7.0 million compared to $6.5 million last month.

The workload activity in the first quarter of 1988 rose from the previous quarter, unlike the changes from the same period last year. Initial claims, weeks of unemployment claimed, and weeks actually compensated rose 13, 20, and 19 percent, respectively. Also with the workload activity, outlay also was on the upswing, rising from $16.1 million in the fourth quarter of 1987 to $19.6 million in the first quarter of 1988.

The average weekly benefit amount during the fourth quarter was $176 compared to $180 in 1988. The first quarter rise was also expected. On the other hand, activity in the first quarter of 1988 was below that of the first quarter of 1987. This is an indication of the seasonal nature of the economy from the last quarter of the year to the first quarter of the succeeding year, and also of the general downward trend in unemployment compensation workload. The table on page 17 outlines the details of the quarterly movements.

The Washington, D.C. Area Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area rose 0.8 percent to 119.2 (1982-84=100) during the two months ended in March. For the 12-months ended in March, the local CPI-U rose 4.1 percent.

The Washington Area Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) also rose 0.8 percent from January to March. The March level of 118.5 was 4.3 percent higher than the index in March 1987.

In March, the increases in the local and national CPI-U indexes were about equal, the former at 0.8 percent and the latter at 0.7 percent. A year ago, the increase in the District of Columbia was 4.1 percent and the national 3.9 percent.

Locally, the January-March CPI-U index showed an increase in 6 of the 7 components with apparel and upkeep showing an acceleration of 7.3 percent.

Comparing the local CPI-U with the U.S. city average over the two-month period, prices of food and beverage, apparel and upkeep, transportation, and energy tend to be relatively higher locally. On the other hand, housing, medical care, and other goods

Continued on page 18

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
March 1988

	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Percent Change From Feb. 1988	Percent Change From Mar. 1987
State UI Program[a]					
Initial Claims Taken	2,968	3,035	3,089	- 2.2	- 3.9
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	38,569	36,529	41,813	+ 5.6	- 7.8
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	36,295	33,894	39,536	+ 7.1	- 8.2
Total Benefits Paid	$6,541,049	$6,095,300	$6,734,659	+ 7.3	- 2.9
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$180.22	$179.83	$170.34	+ 0.2	+ 5.8
Number of First Payments	1,751	2,120	1,794	-17.4	- 2.4
Number of Final Payments	871	777	1,010	+12.1	-13.8
Total Beneficiaries	9,621	9,751	10,482	- 1.3	- 8.2
Federal Program[b]					
Initial Claims Taken	131	102	152	+28.4	-13.8
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	2,319	2,191	3,412	+ 5.8	-32.0
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	2,123	2,013	3,473	+ 5.5	-38.9
Total Benefits Paid	$424,430	$381,264	$699,100	+11.3	-39.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$199.92	$189.40	$201.30	+ 5.6	- 0.7
Number of First Payments	110	107	174	+ 2.8	-36.8
Number of Final Payments	50	55	75	- 9.1	-33.3
Total Beneficiaries	548	541	915	+ 1.3	-40.1
Ex-Servicepersons Program[c]					
Initial Claims Taken	50	47	77	+ 6.4	-35.1
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	428	382	601	+12.0	-28.8
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	329	289	455	+13.8	-27.7
Total Benefits Paid	$64,986	$57,603	$84,853	+12.8	-23.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$197.53	$199.32	$186.49	- 0.9	+ 5.9
Number of First Payments	40	24	39	+66.7	+ 2.6
Number of Final Payments	24	12	30	+100.0	-20.0
Total Beneficiaries	102	86	137	+18.6	-25.5
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	3,149	3,184	3,318	- 1.1	- 5.1
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	41,316	39,102	45,826	+ 5.7	- 9.8
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	38,747	36,196	43,464	+ 7.0	-10.9
Total Benefits Paid	$7,030,465	$6,534,167	$7,518,612	+ 7.6	- 6.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$181.45	$180.52	$172.98	+ 0.5	+ 4.9
Number of First Payments	1,901	2,251	2,007	-15.5	- 5.3
Number of Final Payments	945	844	1,115	+12.0	-15.2
Total Beneficiaries	10,271	10,378	11,534	- 1.0	-11.0

a. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).
b. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).
c. No joint claims.

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Selected Quarters)
District of Columbia
1988 and 1987

Fourth Quarter	First Quarter 1988	Fourth Quarter 1987	First Quarter 1987	Percent Change From Fourth Quarter 1987	Percent Change From First Quarter 1987
Initial Claims Taken	10,568	9,381	11,157	+12.6	- 5.3
Weeks Compensated	108,377	91,303	121,230	+18.7	-10.3
Total Benefits Outlay	$19,569,029	$16,073,007	$20,775,878	+21.8	- 5.8
Average Weekly Benefits	$180.56	$176.04	$171.38	+ 2.6	+ 5.4

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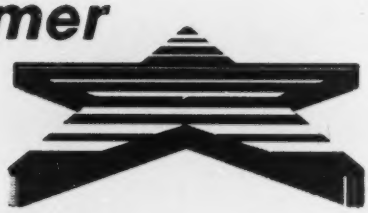

THE MAYOR'S SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

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★★★ Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
500 C Street, NW.

Continued from Page 16

and services tend to be relatively higher nationally. Entertainment tends to be about even.

Washington, D.C.
Area Consumer Price Index
(All Urban Consumers — CPI-U)[a]

Expenditure Category	Mar. 1988	Percent Change 2 months Ago	Percent Change Year Ago
All Items			
U.S.	116.5	+0.7	+ 3.9
Washington Area	119.2	+0.8	+ 4.1
Food & Beverage	116.7	+0.6	+ 4.3
Housing	121.2	+0.1	+ 3.9
Apparel & Upkeep	124.9	+7.3	+10.5
Transportation	106.2	+0.8	+ 0.2
Medical Care	136.4	+1.0	+ 7.0
Entertainment	126.5	+0.9	+ 3.9
Other Goods & Services	134.9	- 0.1	+ 5.9
Special Index:			
Energy[b]	87.8	+0.5	+2.9

[a] 1982-84=100, except as noted.
[b] June 1979=100
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; table prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff.

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Hours and Earnings In Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for the month of March 1988 rose $3.38. Average Weekly Hours declined 0.8 hour. Average Hourly Earnings increased 31 cents.

In the Durable Goods sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products posted a sizable increase in Weekly Earnings of $37.82. More overtime being worked accounted for this rise as increases were registered in

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
March 1988

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987
Total Manufacturing	**428.80**	**425.42**	**422.48**	**38.7**	**39.5**	**39.3**	**11.08**	**10.77**	**10.75**
Durable Goods	**440.15**	**427.82**	**406.55**	**41.8**	**42.4**	**41.4**	**10.53**	**10.09**	**9.82**
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	503.52	465.70	430.99	45.9	44.1	43.8	10.97	10.56	9.84
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	470.80	467.15	476.52	42.3	42.2	41.8	11.13	11.07	11.40
Other Durbable Goods	403.40	394.06	342.23	40.3	42.1	40.5	10.01	9.36	8.45
Non-Durable Goods	**418.83**	**421.83**	**434.21**	**36.2**	**37.1**	**37.4**	**11.57**	**11.37**	**11.61**
Food & Kindred Products	406.08	430.67	447.52	37.6	40.1	37.2	10.80	10.74	12.03
Printing & Publishing	452.09	449.23	469.00	35.1	35.4	36.3	12.88	12.69	12.92
Other Non-Durable Goods	330.19	335.36	325.13	38.8	40.6	41.0	8.51	8.26	7.93

Total Production Workers	**March 1988**	**February 1988**	**March 1987**
	43,000	**42,700**	**44,500**

Note: Data reflects Revision to 1987 Benchmark.

both Weekly Hours (1.8 hours) and Hourly Earnings (41 cents). Other Durable Goods Weekly Earnings rose $9.34 as Hourly Earnings increased 65 cents.

In the Non-Durable Goods sector, a shorter scheduled workweek was responsible for drops of $24.59 and $5.17, respectively, in Food and Kindred Products and Other Non-Durable Goods Weekly Earnings. Printing and Publishing posted a slight increase of $2.86 in Weekly Earnings as Hourly Earnings rose 19 cents.

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